

Tenderers, Network Owners and Wider Industry

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Invitation to Tender Launch Notification: Voltage 2026 Network Services Procurement Tender (formerly known as Pathfinders)

Following the launch of the Voltage 2026 Expression on Interest (EOI) window, and the completion of the EOI consultation, ESO are launching the one-stage Invitation to Tender (ITT) for Voltage 2026 on the Ariba tender platform.

ESO are seeking solutions to provide voltage services from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2036. Solutions in this ITT are sought from both commercial providers as well as Network Owners. Only those who formally express an interest in the Voltage 2026 are being invited to the ITT.

Publication of ITT Documents

The full ITT pack has been published on Ariba to registered bidders only. Registered bidders should refer to the full ITT pack on the Ariba platform in the first instance. In parallel, ESO are making a portion of the ITT pack available on the Voltage 2026 webpage for transparency purposes. Please refer to the table below for more details.

Document	Brief Overview
V2026 Instructions to Tenderers	This document sets out key information and rules in relation to the Voltage 2026 tender. This should be read in conjunction with the Contract Award Criteria in particular. The version of this document provided in this ITT pack is an updated version of the Instructions to Tenderers document published at the EOI stage.
V2026 Contract Award Criteria	This document sets out the technical and economic assessment methodology that ESO will follow in the assessment of Tender Submissions, which will be carried out to identify the most economically efficient solution or combination of solutions. Tenderers (both commercial participants and Network Owners) should take time to review this document in detail to understand how their Tender Submission is going to be assessed.
Query Log	This document should be used by Tenderers to submit tender queries to ESO through the Ariba Message Board for the duration of the tender window. Please refer to the Instructions to Tenderers for more information on the query process. This document has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform.
V2026 Technical Specification	The technical specification outlines the technical performance requirements. The specification is written on a technology-neutral basis to ensure that a variety of technology types can participate in the ITT. The version provided in this ITT tender pack is an updated version of the technical specification published following the EOI.

V2026 Connections Approach	This document details the connections requirements for this Voltage 2026. The version of this document provided in this ITT pack is an updated version following the EOI stage.
V2026 NGET Non-Operational Land Information	This document contains guidance for any Tenderers who wish to use NGET non-operational land. This document has been agreed in collaboration with NGET. This document was not published at EOI stage and has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform.
V2026 Payment Calculator	ESO have provided an Excel document that sets out an illustrative calculation of availability payments, providing indicative visibility of how the finalised availability formula included in the contract terms would apply. This has been updated following the receipt of consultation feedback at EOI stage. Please note: In the case of any discrepancy to the formulae in the terms and conditions, please notify us as soon as possible and note that the formulae in the terms and conditions shall apply during the contract term.
V2026 Reactive Power Services Agreement	The Reactive Power Services Agreement is made up of two documents: 1) General Terms and Conditions, and 2) Contract Form. The version of these documents provided in this ITT pack have been updated following the receipt of consultation feedback at EOI stage. At ITT stage we will be publishing draft versions of some forms of the Acceptable Security that can be considered by providers.
V2026 NGET Connections Feasibility Report	This document details the results of the connection feasibility studies about the reserved bay, in line with the V2026 Connections Approach document. This document was not published at EOI stage and has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform.
V2026 Technical Submission Proforma	Tenderers are asked to complete this Excel form as part of this ITT to detail the technical capability of their proposed solutions. <u>This form must be completed and submitted on Ariba to ESO by the tender submission deadline.</u> This document has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform. Any Network Owners wishing to be included in the assessment should not complete this form, instead they must complete and submit the Network Owner SRF Form (see below).
V2026 Commercial Submission Proforma	Tenderers are asked to complete this Excel form as part of this ITT to detail the commercial offering of their proposed solutions. <u>This form must be completed and submitted on Ariba to ESO by the tender submission deadline.</u> This document has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform. Any Network Owners wishing to be included in the assessment should not complete this form, instead they must complete and submit the Network Owner SRF Form (see below).
V2026 Tenderer Declaration	Tenderers are asked to complete this form as part of this ITT to declare the validity of their tender submission. <u>This form must be completed and submitted on Ariba to ESO by the tender submission deadline.</u> This document has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform. Any Network Owners wishing to be included in the assessment should not complete this form, instead they must complete and submit the Network Owner SRF Form (see below).
V2026 SRF Network Owner Submission Proforma	Network Owners are asked to complete this excel form as part of their submission. <u>This form must only be completed by Network Owners and submitted to ESO by the tender submission deadline.</u> This document has only been made available to registered bidders on the Ariba tender platform.

Final Opportunity to Express Interest for Voltage 2026

The expression of interest window is still open if you wish to bid into the Voltage 2026 tender and have not yet formally expressed an interest. Your company has until the backstop deadline of **5pm 19 January 2024** to express an interest.

To express an interest please email box.voltage2026@nationalgrideso.com confirming the following details:

- Expression of interest
- Company Name

- Nominated Contact (multiple contacts can be provided if necessary)
- Contact Phone Number (for each contact provided)
- Contact Email Address (for each contact provided)
- Postal Address
- Company Ariba ID information (if available)

If your company has already expressed an interest, you do not need to do so again.

Please note that only those who express their interest by this deadline will be invited to the ITT on Ariba. ESO will not accept any expressions of interest received after this deadline.

Next Steps

Following the tender submission deadline, the received Tender Submissions will be assessed in accordance with the Contract Award Criteria. Upon completion of this assessment, the successful solutions will be identified, and the outcome of this ITT will be communicated to Voltage 2026 participants before publishing the results on the ESO website.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Magill

Zero Carbon Operation Senior Manager